

Two-Kates project bag

You will need:

Two pieces of fabric (an 'outer' and an 'inner'), 28" by 36". Old newspaper for cutting pattern template. Marker pen and pencil; sewing machine; iron for pressing; scissors; thread, ruler

Sewing note: Backstitch half an inch every time you start to sew (to ensure your bag has firm seams that don't unravel)

1. Make template.

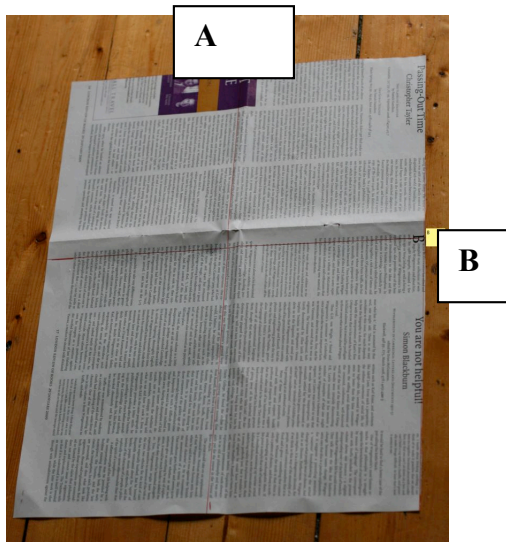
On newspaper, draw a rectangle 18" long x 14" wide

Mark a point in the centre of each short side (7" mark).

Draw a vertical line connecting them (A)

From the bottom of the rectangle, mark a point 10" up each long side.

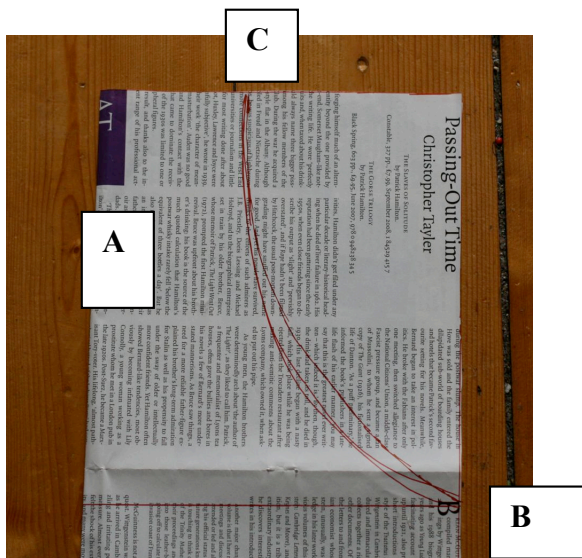
Draw a horizontal line connecting them. (B)



Across the top of the rectangle, mark a point 3 inches either side of A (C).

With right side uppermost (so you can see your marks and lines), fold your template in half along line A.

Now draw a nice, regular curve connecting point C to the outer edge of the rectangle at B. (at this point you might like to use a pencil: if you aren't happy with your curve first time, just try again)



Cut the corners of the rectangle along this curve. Unfold. There's your bag template.

2. Cut out fabric pieces.

Fold your 'outer' piece of fabric in half, and pin template on top.

Cut round template.

Do the same with your 'inner' piece.

You now have four fabric shapes: 2 x outer and 2 x inner.

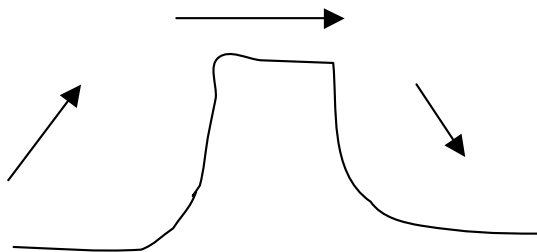


(Bag template)

3. Stitch handles

Take one outer and one inner. Place *right sides together* and pin (the wrong sides of both fabric pieces will be outermost)

Using a 0.5 inch seam allowance, stitch around the bag handle thus:



Clip the corners.



(clipped corners make seams neater)



(here you see wrong side of 'inner fabric' after stitching)

Turn inside out (right sides will now be outermost). Press the seams flat with the iron.

Go back to the machine and overstretch the handle seam with a scant allowance (stitch an even line as close to the edge as you can).



(overstitched seam from right side of 'outer')

Do the same with the other outer / inner pair.

4. Prepare bag for stitching

Follow these steps very carefully

Take one outer/inner.

With right side outermost, pull the unstitched outer and inner away from the handles so that they form a rectangle.

Place flat on table.

Ensure bag handle is neatly folded to one side, but *does not touch* the outside edge of the rectangle.



(bag rectangle, right side up)

Do the same with the other outer / inner pair.

Matching the right sides of the fabric inner to inner and outer to outer, place one rectangle on top of another. (The wrong side will be outermost)

Pin together.



(bag rectangles pinned right sides together)

Have another look at your pinned bag. Make sure:

- *that it is pinned nice and flat
- *that the bag handles are kept away from the edges
- *that you have matched inner to inner and outer to outer
- *that the wrong sides of the fabric are outermost.

5. Stitch bag

Pick a point mid-way along the bottom edge of the bag on the 'inner' fabric.

Using a 0.5" seam allowance, stitch around the bag, stopping 3 or 4" from your starting point (to leave a gap for turning).

Clip seams.

Pull the bag out to the right side through the gap you left for turning.

Press seams

How neat a thing is that?!



(bag after turning)

6. Closing handle

Turn bag so that the *inner* lining fabric is on the *outside*.



('inner' on the outside)

Pin handles together, 'outer' sides facing.



('inner' on the outside)

Stitch top of handles using a 0.75 seam allowance. Press seam to *one side*.

With a scant allowance, stitch along the edge of your pressed seam, to secure it where you pressed it (you will be stitching through several layers of fabric, so take care with machine at this point.)

Turn bag so that the 'outer' is now on the outside, the 'inner' on the inside.

The top of the bag handles will look like this:



(top of bag handle. 'outer' on the outside.)

7. Finishing.

Remember the gap in the 'inner' fabric you left for turning? You just need to close that and your bag will be finished.

Press the raw edges of the turning gap to the inside. Hand-stitch the seam closed (using even slip-stitch, or whatever method you like).

Press the whole thing one more time.

Admire your Two-Kates project bag

Now, stick a knitting project in it!

